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## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

## ENGLISH LABOR STATISTICS.

*Statistical Tables and Report on Trade Unions.* Third Report. (Report by the Labour Correspondent of the Board of Trade.) London, 1889. Pp. 262.

*Report on the Strikes and Lockouts of 1888.* By the Labour Correspondent to the Board of Trade. London, 1889. Pp. 104.

*Returns of Expenditure by Workingmen.* (Commercial Department Board of Trade.) London, 1889. Pp. 49.

*Returns of Rates of Wages in the Principal Textile Trades of the United Kingdom with report thereon.* (Robert Giffen, Board of Trade.) London, 1889. Pp. xxxviii, 152.

Of the above four English parliamentary blue books, relating to labor statistics, the most novel to Americans is probably the one devoted to trade unions. There is no comprehensive report concerning the condition of trade unions made in the United States. Some of the separate state bureaus of labor statistics have collected information in regard to trade unions existing within particular states, but such an inquiry cannot be complete. I make the suggestion that this might be an interesting field of investigation for the National Department of Labor, although it must be confessed that as yet the trade unions in this country are not so important or powerful organizations as those existing in England.

The first report upon Trade Unions of England covered the year 1886,—the third one relating to 1888. The report is made by an official termed the Labor Correspondent, and submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade. It deals with the number of members belonging to trade unions; their contributions; the percentage of members who have enjoyed unemployed, sick, and superannuated benefits; and the amount per capita of membership paid for such benefits. There are also detailed tables relating to 104 different unions. The reports of some of these societies run back for a period of thirty or forty years,

thus furnishing a considerable mass of comparative material. There are two tables showing the chief causes of death in certain societies, with average ages at death, and the kinds of accident or diseases for which accident or disablement benefits are paid. In the Appendix there are extracts from the latest annual statements of various unions and a list of societies which sent no returns. Of these there are nearly 150. It is thought, however, that more than one-half the membership of trade unions is embraced in the report, the exact number being 373,904.

The income of 100 of these societies in 1888 amounted to £744,309, while the expenditure was £596,671. The total property on hand was valued at £707,583. The analysis of the expenditure accounts of some of the largest unions gives interesting results. The largest union is the Amalgamated Society of Engineers with a membership of 53,740. The following is a consolidation of the expense accounts :

Unemployed Benefits,	·	·	·	·	·	£54,740
Sick Benefits,	·	·	·	·	·	32,160
Superannuation Benefits,	·	·	·	·	·	38,343
Accident Benefits,	·	·	·	·	·	8,057
Benevolent Fund,	·	·	·	·	·	2,059
Funeral Fund,	·	·	·	·	·	9,381

At the same time it may be observed that of the total membership but 4.2 per cent received the unemployed benefit; 2.5 per cent the sick benefit; and 3 per cent the superannuation benefit. The highest percentage ever upon the unemployed list was 13.3 per cent in 1879.

Again, the Carpenters and Joiners in 29 years expended for the support of unemployed members £330,690; for sick members, £223,843; for funerals, £40,828; for accidents, £23,720; and for superannuation, £22,003.

The per capita contributions in the several trades vary greatly. I have counted five in which this was more than £3 for the year. The foregoing memoranda indicate a few of the special lines of inquiry which might be made in this report. It is to be regretted that in neither this or in the other English reports on labor statistics are there combination statistical tables, connecting different questions of interest, such as are found in great abundance in the reports issued by the Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The first comprehensive statistical treatment of labor disputes or strikes in England was made under private investigation by Mr.

Bevan for the *Royal Statistical Journal* in a paper published in 1880. The inquiry covered the strikes occurring during the period 1870-79. It was not until 1888 that any public official attempt was made to collect information on this subject. This first attempt failed, as very few returns were made to the schedules which were distributed. The plan of collecting information was then changed. Intelligence in regard to strikes was sought for through the daily papers, and this time with more success. By this means 509 disputes in which stoppage of work occurred were noted in 1888. Although no absolutely definite judgment is possible, it is thought that strikes are somewhat less frequent than they were from ten to twenty years ago, and that those occurring are now readily brought to a conclusion. The following table shows the chief causes of dispute and the results of the strikes:—

Cause or Object.	Total Number.	Number Successful.	Number Partially Successful.	Number Unsuccessful.	Result not Known.
For advance in wages, .....	320	175	76	48	21
Against reduction in wages .....	54	12	3	29	10
Dispute as to amount of recent advance....	2	2	..	..	..
Dissatisfaction with conditions of work, hours, material, etc.....	66	34	9	22	1
Dispute between classes of work people....	2	2	..	..	..
Against alteration of working and residential arrangements.....	22	8	3	8	3
For introduction or defence of Union rules, etc .....	10	4	1	2	3
For reinstatement of certain men.....	6	3	2	1	..
Dissatisfaction with superior officials.....	15	8	..	5	2
Cause not known.....	12	1	..	1	10
Total.....	509	249	94	116	50

There is considerable descriptive material in this report, including a survey of English legislation upon the subject.

In the *Returns of Expenditure by Working Men*, an attempt is made to draw up "workingmen's budgets" much after the method of LePlay and Engels. The results of the inquiry, however, are not regarded as satisfactory. Of 730 forms sent out but 36, or about 5 per cent, were returned, and of these, two were not in a condition suitable for publication. The experience of this inquiry leads the author of the report to regard other budgets which have been pub-

lished as of dubious value. The Board of Trades are satisfied that the greater part of the budgets hitherto published, "most have been trimmed by the compilers, and the process, though perhaps excusable, raises many doubts as to the original basis of these budgets." No attempt at trimming, however, is made here, for the original budgets are published as obtained.

The incomes in the 34 budgets vary from £28, 12s. to £150 per annum. This extreme variation forces the observation that "these figures are enough to show that no exact annual budget could be drawn up without a good deal of trimming and cooking." As might be expected, there is little success in analyzing and comparing the returns according to Dr. Engels' law of expenditures.

In the introduction of the report upon *Wages in the textile trades*, Mr. Giffen points out that in nearly all statements of wages made in England, including the researches of Mr. Leone Levi and Mr. Dudley Baxter, the statistical view has been lacking, as there has been no attempt to correct the rates of wages with the proportionate numbers paid at each rate. It is on this point in particular that Mr. Giffen desires to furnish reliable data. The wages reported upon relate to one particular week in October, 1886, and cover about one-fourth of the total number engaged in the cotton, woollen, worsted, and linen industries. The following table gives a summary of wages:—

COMPARISON OF NORMAL WAGES IN THE COTTON, WOOLLEN, WORSTED,  
AND LINEN TRADES IN 1886.

ANNUAL.

	Cotton.	Woollen.	Worsted.	Linen.
Men .....	£ 65 12	60 0	60 13	51 13
Lads and Boys.....	24 4	22 0	16 18	16 4
Women .....	39 15	34 9	31 0	23 3
Girls.....	17 17	19 7	16 0	12 17

WEEKLY.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Men.....	25 3	23 2	23 4	19 9
Lads and Boys.....	9 4	8 6	6 6	6 3
Women .....	15 3	13 3	11 11	8 11
Girls.....	6 10	7 5	6 2	4 11

The annual wages in the foregoing table are obtained by multiplying the wages of one week in October by 52. The possibility of unemployed time is touched upon, but is not regarded as a serious consideration. It is, however, doubtful if any wage statistics can be regarded as of much final value that do not weigh very accurately the loss of time throughout the year. The tables showing the distribution of wage earners according to rates of wages are of great interest. But a single reference can be made. Of 142,784 employed in the cotton trade, more than one-half, 81,240, receive wages above the average, 18,353 at the average, and about one-third, 43,141, below the average. The detailed statistics on this point are so abundant in this report that wage statistics can henceforth be treated far more intelligently than in the past.

DAVIS R. DEWEY.

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#### MEMORANDA ON THE FALL IN RATES OF INTEREST.

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In the following pages a few notes are offered on the fall in rates of interest which has taken place in this country in recent years. In order to determine its course and limits, in the spring of 1889 I deduced the net average rates of interest realized from 1869 to that date by twenty leading life insurance companies, viz., the *Ætna*, Connecticut Mutual and Travelers of Connecticut; Berkshire, Massachusetts Mutual, New England Mutual, and State Mutual of Massachusetts; Equitable, Germania, Home, Manhattan, Mutual, New York, United States, and Washington of New York; Mutual Benefit of New Jersey; National of Vermont; Northwestern Mutual of Wisconsin; and Penn Mutual, and Provident Life and Trust of Pennsylvania; and the result was published in the last or 46th Annual Report of the Directors of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, which I have the pleasure to serve as Actuary.

Since then I have similarly determined the rates of the same companies for 1889, an abstract of the complete results being stated in the following table:—